



# the **RARA RAG**

Published by

**ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

VOL. 57

SEPTEMBER 2004

NO. 1

## DX-ing

Featured presenter for the 2004-05 season opening meeting will be Mr. Chris Shalvoy, K2CS. First licensed as N2PEB in 1991, Chris has worked and confirmed a total of 320 DX entities thus far and is currently just 2 countries short of achieving 5-Band DXCC, in addition to just recently having snared his 50th state for WAS on 50 MHz. This avid DX'er is a past-President of Rochester DX Association, is an active operator with the Sweepstakes contest team at K2NNY, and hands out FN23 to VHF-ers from his get-away QTH site in Herkimer County. Additionally, Chris is ARRL Atlantic Division DXAC Advisory Committee representative since 2002.

An enjoyable evening of HF and VHF DX-ing enlightenment is guaranteed. You will leave with some good pointers, including how to snare that elusive rare one. See you September 3rd.

**RaRa  
MEETING  
September 3, 2004  
(NOTE THE NEW  
MEETING START TIME)**

**7:30PM**

**HENRIETTA FIRE HALL  
3129 E. HENRIETTA RD.**

**DX-ing**

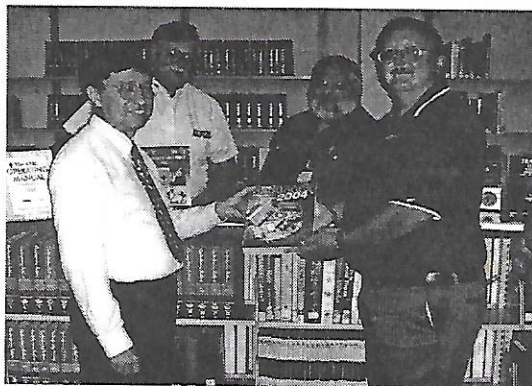
**Presented by  
Chris Shalvoy, K2CS**

## BOOKS DONATED to PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Don Dunn AB2NM**

During their July meeting, the RaRa Board of Directors approved the purchase and donation of an ARRL Book set to the Webster Public Library. The Board made the decision to donate the book set in order to enhance and improve the quantity and quality of up-to-date materials concerning the Amateur Radio Service, and make this information readily available to patrons throughout the Monroe County Library System (MCLS). The material was donated on Monday evening 19 July 2004 and received by Mr. Marvin Andrews, Director of the Webster Public Library. Photographs of the donation can be seen at the RaRa website: [www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org)

The ARRL Book set consists of 16 books, a world map, and audio CD set for Morse Code instruction. The complete set of materials can be seen at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/libbookset.html>. The cost of the set is \$200 and included shipping. Bookplates will be placed in or on the donated materials by the Webster Public Library staff. The bookplates will credit members of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association for the donation, and list RaRa's website and information line phone number. *CONTINUED DONATION PAGE 6*



*RaRa RAG 1*

# the RARA RAG

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## Prez Sez..... Brad Armstrong W1YX

I hope you've all had an enjoyable and safe summer. The Hamfest was a success in my estimation, since everyone I spoke to had a great time and found much of what they were looking for. One highlight for me was getting two guests from the League on the schedule; ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI and ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG. The Atlantic Division was also well represented. The banquet was just great; with Dick Goslee, KG2I, as host how could it be otherwise? Lia Zwack, WA2NFY, was honored for her service to the community on behalf of amateur radio and Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, and our host, Mr. Goslee, was both honored for their many years of service to RaRa. During the weekend, I also got plenty of time on the RIT amateur radio controlled blimp, ably maintained by Jason Faulring, KB2WLK, President of the RIT ARC and Jon Arney, WB3LHI, faculty advisor to the club. I didn't get much time at the flea market this year, but that was because there was an abundance of familiar local hams to get in eyeball contacts with. I already can't wait for next year!

The annual club picnic in June at Ellison Park was great fun as well -- more opportunities for extended eyeball contacts, and I got the honors at the grill this year. All who attended were happy and well fed. The foxhunts were presided over by Doug Howard, KC2KNH; and run using a fox hand-built by Jon Dickason, N2JAC. The hunts were quite competitive and a fine selection of prizes was provided to hand out by our Awards Manager, Greg Michels, KC2GXV.

I was approached this summer with a great idea for promoting amateur radio and educational goals in the community by Don Dunn, AB2NM. Don suggested to me that we could donate a complete ARRL library set to the Monroe County Library System. I brought the idea to the Board and it was agreed by all that this was a worthwhile idea, especially since these sets when shipped directly to libraries are offered by the League at a substantial discount, roughly 40% off of cover. The Board agreed to fund the purchase of the first library set as long as we solicit donations from the membership to try to make up for the club's initial outlay.

CONTINUED PREZ SEZ PAGE 7



## RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago, September 1984

Ed Gable K2MP

Program Chairman Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, reported that the September program would be a talk by Dave Hayes, an engineer with Harris/RF Communications Mobile Telephone Division. Dave will be reporting on a new buzz in the mobile telephone business called Cellular telephone. The venue is the 40/8 Club on University Avenue. While at the meeting you could pay your dues with membership chairman Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU, who reported 829 current members. RaRa published in this issue regularly scheduled VE testing dates as scheduled by Test Chairman John Schooley, K2NC. Starting this new RaRa season will see Ray Roberts, WA2SSU, as President, Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, as VP, with John Lloyd, KA2KFV and John Van Griethuysen, N2BNE, as Secretary and Treasurer. Ray started right out with a fully organized staff with these appointments: awards by N2CUN, Computer committee with N2DPF, Hamfest run by K2HC, Public Relations lead by N2BXA, Rag Editor is K2RJ and Exams by K2NC. Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, wrote a nice report on the progress of the K2JD Club station complete with two full pages of photos. Featured were the Drake TR-7 line, SB-220 PA, and several VHF multi-mode rigs.

Writing for the Rochester DX Association was Fred Gern, KB2SE. Fred reported that the RDXA would be hosting members of the just completed XF2GW operation (8 million points in ARRL DX contest) and you could meet and chat with them in person. The RDXA then met at the Colonial Restaurant on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. Before there was Packet, there was MSO, or Message Storage Operation. You could leave messages for others to retrieve later by using 2 meter RTTY and contacting WB2VPH, Rich, in Brockport, on 144.920 MHz. This early form of bulletin board was hosted on a Commodore 64 computer. George Krickovich, W2YJ, of Commercial Communications, advertised his services covering all types of Amateur Radio Repairs. From the Want Ads, Jim Shipkowski, WB2WWV, reported he is "cleaning his shack" and offers all sorts of rack cabinets for sale.

## Local Ham Wins National Awards

At the 2004 National Convention of the Antique Wireless Association, Inc., a local Radio Amateur was awarded two of the most prestigious awards offered for work in the field. Edward Gable, K2MP, of Hilton, New York, was selected to receive the *Houck Award* that recognizes the work of an individual in preserving the history of communications. A thoroughly surprised Mr. Gable was then called to the podium again when the *J. P. Taylor* award was given. The Taylor award is given only when a significant accomplishment is made in the field of television history. In 2003, Mr. Gable worked to recreate the accomplishment of the UK's John Logie Baird, who, in 1928, sent the first TV signal across the Atlantic. A stunned Mr. Gable accepted the award from none other than Malcolm Baird, the son of John Logie Baird, who came to the convention specifically to make the award. Also attending was Ian Logie Baird, the Grandson. "I knew we accomplished a great thing," spoke a modest Ed Gable, regarding accomplishing trans-Atlantic TV signals using all mechanical techniques of 1928, "but I didn't think it was worth all this fuss. I am deeply honored."

## RRRA September Program Friday, September 17, 2004

Do you ever wonder which is the best repeater frequency to use for any given location? Do you wonder which repeater is linked to others for wide-area coverage?

We've asked Bob, N2HJD to give us a multi-media overview of the Megaplex Repeater System. Bob will share his insights into the planning and "radio magic" that we have come to know and affectionately call the Megaplex. We've asked Brad, KB2CHY, to give us an overview of the K2RRA repeaters and share some of the little known secrets of the new controller. If time permits, there may be some special guest speakers who will share some insight into some of the other area repeaters too. The goal will be to put you in the know to get the maximum performance and area coverage using your mobile or hand-held transceiver. Don't miss this one!

## RaRa e-mail Reflector

George Masny KA2GPJ

If you have visited the RaRa web site on the Internet, you probably noticed "e-Mail Reflector" buried among the many options. Well... It's not the longest element of a tri-bander used as a bat to swat SPAM.

An e-mail reflector is a program that acts as the forwarding broadcaster of e-mail messages to the names on a distribution list. Here's how it works:

1. One member of the distribution list composes an e-mail message or replies to one.
2. The user sends the message to the e-mail reflector (which to the user usually appears to be name of the list itself).
3. The e-mail reflector receives the message and automatically forwards a copy to each person on the distribution list.

The advantage of using an e-mail reflector is that the distribution list can be centrally managed so that everyone will always have the most up-to-date version.

So what does this do for you?

It is a very efficient way to keep in touch with RaRa people.

An email reflector will keep you informed of all the latest developments.

It is self administered. YOU control when and how you receive messages.

The messages are screened to prevent off topic items.

The RaRa Rag comes out once a month – the reflector can be used at any time there something worth sharing with the membership.

In addition, the email addresses are private... not distributed to anyone!

So next time you visit the RaRa Web Site at <http://www.rochesterham.org/> don't forget to sign up!

Click on the e-Mail Reflector option and follow the [Sign up Instructions!](#)

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## RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing

All Elements Needed To Complete  
a License Class

**Saturday September 18, 2004**

Contact Cheryl Joyce AB2NU  
For any special needs (585)-533-9252

Registration - 8:30 a.m.

Testing - 9:00 a.m.

Room 2150, Building 76  
(Park in Lot F)

Rochester Institute of Technology  
Lomb Memorial Drive  
Rochester, NY 14623

## RaRa License Class

Ray Pickens WA2MYG

The first semester 2004-05 RaRa Amateur Radio License Class will begin on September 20, 2004 & end on December 13, 2004 in building 78 room 1155 on the RIT Campus at 7:00 PM, details can be found on the RaRa web site [www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org) with exams to be taken at the December 18, 2004 RaRa VE session.

The two12 week RaRa License Class's of the 2003-04 season yielded 12 upgrades, 9 entry level Technician Class Licensee's 5 of which took & passed the element one (CW) exam.

## Need A Lawyer?

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**Paul I. Snyder**

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### For Sale 2004:

Alinco DR-M06T, 6 meter FM, X'ceiver, 10 watts. + TPL 100 watt amp. \$300.00  
Icom IC-900, with UX29H, 2 meter module. 35 watts. ----- \$250.00  
Mirage A 1015, 6 meter, SSB/CW/FM, amp,w/ preamp.10in/150out. \$175.00  
Mirage B 3016, 2 meter, SSB/CW/FM, amp,w/ preamp.15/45 in+120/160w \$175.00  
Mirage C 106, 220 MHz, SSB/CW/FM, amp,w/preamp.10in/60w/out. \$150.00  
Cushcraft A 147-11, 146 beam. \$ 30.00  
Cushcraft A 220-11, 220 beam \$ 30.00  
Cushcraft A 449-11, 446 beam. \$ 30.00  
Palomar HF amp. 3-30 MHz. 5w in 100 w out. (12vdc), ----- \$100.00  
Walters 6 pos. Coax switch, M-375, \$ 10.00  
B & W 5 pos. Coax switch, M-550-A \$ 10.00  
Thompson 3 pos. Coax switch, N connectors, M-10991, ----- \$ 15.00  
WA2ZNC Len wa2znc@juno.com  
(585)-367-9356

FOR SALE: TS-520 HF xcvr, new tubes  
And CW filter. Asking \$275. Irv Goodman,  
AF2K, (585) 671-4430

### SILENT KEYS:

Raymond A. Santirocco, Ph.D.KE2LN 6/12/04  
John S. Carpenter, Sr. WA2JBT June 16, 2004  
Robert D. Caswell KC2JXO June 16, 2004  
Duane K. Hinkel KB2KWO July 8, 2004  
Cheryl E. Eckert KB2CIB May 15, 2004  
Leland J. Thayer ex-KA2ZYF July 14, 2004  
Ruth S. Harnaart N2MXN July 19, 2004

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## PUBLIC SERVICE REQUESTS

**Keith Freeberg N2BEL**

Calling all amateurs! We need your help. We have lots of fun public service requests from Rochester community non-profits still to go. The public, thanks to our PR team, is increasingly aware of what amateur radio can do. See mentions of RaRa on TV 8, 10 & 13's respective web sites.

Now, more than ever before, is the time to consider volunteering a few hours to help your friends and neighbors. Learn new skills, dust off your existing skills and be ready to handle emergencies. All you need to do is volunteer and we will do the rest to help you.

These events will leverage as many modes of amateur radio as is fitting the type of event and will be a great way to keep your emergency communications skills sharp. Here are just a few of the events yet this Fall;

Alzheimer Memory Walks - September 12 & 19 multi-city events - half day

Walk for Diabetes - October 2 -- Ellison Park Area - half day

October 13 -- R.E. Ginna Nuclear Evacuation Pre-Exercise (now Constellation owned)

Pumpkin Patrol -- October 30 & 31

November 9 -- R.E. Ginna Nuclear Evacuation Exercise/Demonstration for agencies (now Constellation owned)

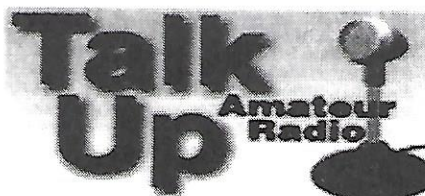
New Event Coming Next Year

8th Annual Bike Ride across New York via Erie Canal please view [www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org) for descriptions and links. Information will be updated every two weeks. Questions? Please call or email me. N2bel@frontiernet.net or 585-254-0722

**RaRa HOTLINE**

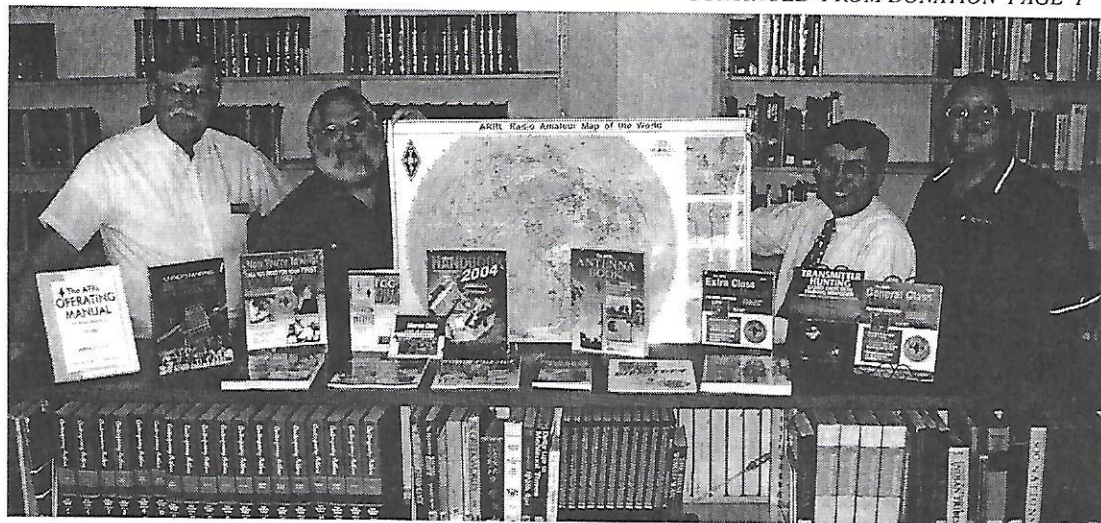
**(585) 442-0587 24 X 7**

### SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL REPEATERS



RaRa RAG 5





The Webster Public Library is located in Webster Plaza at 980 Ridge Road in the town of Webster. Materials are available for loan to anyone holding a Monroe County Library System library card. There is no charge for the card to residents of Monroe County, and a nominal charge for non-residents. Materials held by the Webster branch can also be shipped for pick-up at other MCLS

## NEXT RAG DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 20, 2004

### PR – In Brief

Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY

It's been a busy this summer getting RaRa public relations off the ground. There is now a link to the RaRa website at WOKR-TV Channel 13 online. Go to [www.iknow.rochester](http://www.iknow.rochester). Click "Community" in the left column. Then click on "Links" followed by "Clubs."

The times of meetings and information about license courses have been advertised in the *Genesee Valley Penny Saver* and the *Shopping Bag Advertiser*. This information also appears on the 10NBC website. A short article about our amateur radio classes appeared in *City* newspaper, after a reporter contacted Ray Pickens about the program.

Marvin Andrews, the director of the Webster Public Library, wrote an article for *The Webster Herald* about RaRa's donation of a set of ARRL books. Don Dunn (AB2NM) came up with the idea for the donation, ordered the books, and scheduled the event. Joel Kleinman, the editor of QST, will try to work a story with photographs into *Strays* sometime this fall.

During my contacts with the media, I

have used the following concise statement to describe RaRa activities:

"The Rochester Amateur Radio Association is a nonprofit organization with a local membership of over 500 amateur ("Ham") radio operators. Besides enjoying world-wide shortwave radio communication with other radio enthusiasts, members perform volunteer service for the community. These activities include providing reliable, portable communication networks for public events, such as triathlons and walk-a-thons. Amateur radio operators are prepared to establish emergency communications to assist agencies like the Red Cross during relief efforts in the face of natural disasters. The club has a long tradition of providing educational programs in schools, including communication with the International Space Station.

"All are welcome to attend monthly club meetings. Because Ham radio has become increasingly technical, including digital, satellite, and computer-assisted communication, RaRa has guest speakers at meetings who update radio operators on current and emerging technologies. Also, RaRa offers courses for those who wish to obtain an Amateur Radio operator's license from the FCC.

CONTINUED PR PAGE 7



# ARES members in first CERT-class offered by Monroe County

Judy Stonehill N2KXS

On July 13th, twenty people graduated from the first Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) class offered by the Monroe County Office of Emergency Preparedness. Among the group were 9 hams, all members of ARES: Dean Alexander, K2ULB; Angela Anuszewski, KC2JPI; Chuck Blocher, KC2IQV; Mike Bowen, KC2BTW; Peter Fournia, W2SKY; Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY; Greg Michels, KC2GXV; Judy Stonehill, N2KXS; and Ed Turkowski, W2KVZ.

The Community of Monroe Citizen Corps (CMCC) sponsored the course. The training was administered by the Homeland Security Management Institute of Monroe Community College at the Monroe County Public Safety Training Facility and took 24 hours over an 8-week period.

Through the course, participants received basic training in disaster survival and rescue skills that would improve their ability to survive and to help others to survive until responders or other assistance could arrive. Some of the topics that were covered are: disaster preparedness, fire suppression and safety, disaster medical operations, search and rescue operations, disaster psychology, CPR, and the use of an automated external defibrillator.



Angela KC2JPI bandages a wound for Greg KC2GXV While Dean K2ULB "supervises"

We all felt that we had gained confidence in our ability to help others in the event of a disaster and, as hams, had a better understanding of how we might use our emergency communication skills in support of groups such as CERT.

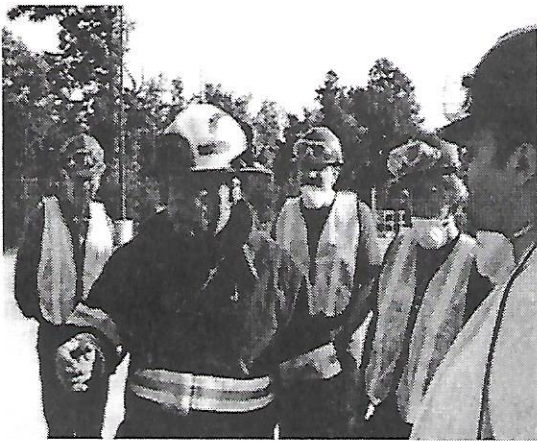
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The RaRa website at [www.rochesterham.org/](http://www.rochesterham.org/) provides details of club activities and scheduled events."

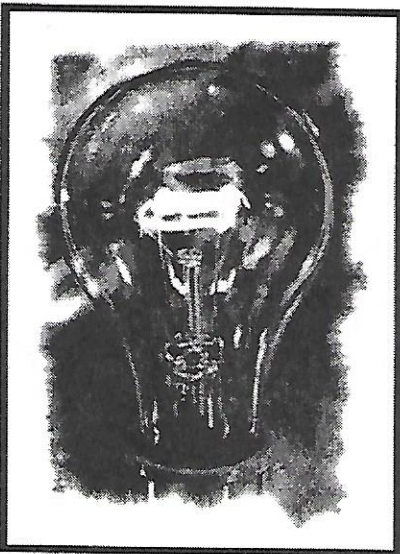
If club members have anything newsworthy to report, please contact me at 389-1926, or [contax2@rochester.rr.com](mailto:contax2@rochester.rr.com).

CONTINUED FROM PREZ SEZ PAGE 2

I put down the first 20 dollars myself and the donation took place soon after at the Webster Public Library. The Library was delighted and our new Public Relations Chairman Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY, got us lots of good publicity from this as well. So, now I'm asking for the members to donate towards these amateur radio books for the library. If, as I believe we will, we get enough money in we'll use it to purchase additional sets to be donated to other local libraries. Bring your donations to the meeting or send them to the Club Treasurer, George Masny, KA2GPJ. If you mail them to RaRa's address, PO Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333, he'll be sure to receive them. Be sure to notate clearly that they are for the library book fund if you send them to George. More information on the library sets can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/libookset.html>



Dean K2ULB, Chuck KC2IQV, Judy N2KXS, and Mike KC2BTW gets fire-fighting instructions



### LET US HELP YOU PATENT YOUR INVENTION

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